

### **REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed October 31, 2005 (Paper No. 20051026). Upon entry of this response, claims 17-22 are pending in the application. In this response, claims 1-16 and 23-51 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments being filed herewith be entered and request that there be reconsideration of all pending claims.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 17-22. In this response, the remaining claims are cancelled. Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.

2. Election/Restriction

Claims 35-48 were withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b). In this response, claims 35-48 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicant expressly reserves the right to present cancelled 35-48, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

3. Drawings Objections

The Office Action objects to several reference numerals in Figures 3, 4, and 5. However, Applicant reviewed the drawings filed with the instant application on December 14, 2000., and cannot find numerals 301 or 305 in Fig. 3 and Fig. 5, or a numeral 4017 in Fig. 4. Applicant's representative Karen G. Hazzah called the Examiner for clarification, and the Examiner indicated that the objection was in error. Therefore, Applicant requests that the drawing objection be withdrawn.

4. Specification Objections

The specification has been objected to as containing an embedded hyperlink. The specification has also been objected to as containing various informalities. Specifically, the Office Action identifies that the sentence containing "interleaver of the" on line 23 of page 21 is incomplete.

The specification has been amended to correct the hyperlink and the informalities. Although these amendments effect several changes to the specification, it is respectfully asserted that no new matter has been added.

5. Claim Objections

Claims 8, 28-31, and 34 are objected to because of various informalities Claims 8, 28-31, and 34 have been cancelled, and therefore the objection is moot.

6. Rejection of Claims 49-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 49-51 have been cancelled, and therefore the rejection is moot.

7. Rejection of Claims 1-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8 and 11 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Betts et al.* (4,677,625) in view of *Maloon et al.* (4,635,278). Claims 1-8 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicant expressly reserves the right to present cancelled claims 1-8 and 11, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

8. Rejection of Claims 9-10, 12-16, and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-10, 12-16, and 23-27 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Betts et al.* (4,677,625) in view of *Maloon et al.* (4,635,278) and *Voith et al.* (5,751,741). Claims 9-10, 12-16, and 23-27 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicant expressly reserves the right to present cancelled claims 9-10, 12-16, and 23-27, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

9. Rejection of Claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 34 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *APA* (1,234,234) in view of *Rademeyer* (0,673,163). Claim 34 is cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of this cancelled claim in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicant expressly reserves the right to present cancelled claim 34, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

10. Rejection of Claims 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103

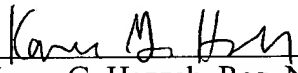
Claims 28-31 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Betts et al.* (4,677,625) in view of *Hu et al.* (5,841,819). Claims 28-31 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public. Applicant expressly reserves the right to present cancelled claims 28-31, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and presently pending claims 17-22 be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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& RISLEY, L.L.P.**

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